

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW1010_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

Students' laptops already obsolete

Refer to Herald Sun story 'Students laptops already obsolete'. It refers to laptops handed out to Victorian schools are obsolete and almost out of warranty as the federal program began 2008. • Can the dept confirm if this is accurate? • If so, how many regional and rural schools are affected? • What is the govt/dept doing to address this matter? <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/students-laptops-already-obsolete/story-fn7x8me2-1226187057093>

Answer

The overall aim of the National Secondary School Computer Fund (the Computer Fund) is to provide new computers and other ICT equipment for students in Years 9-12, to achieve a 1:1 computer to student ratio.

Funding for Round One of the Computer Fund was distributed to education authorities in June 2008, with the first computers purchased in July 2008. Consistent with findings from the *Review of Legitimate and Additional Financial Implications of the National Secondary School Computer Fund*, four years has been assumed to be an appropriate life cycle for computers purchased under the Computer Fund.

Consistent with the National Partnership Agreement on the Digital Education Revolution with the government sector and Digital Education Revolution Funding Agreements with the non-government sector, after the 1:1 ratio has been reached, funding will be provided to contribute to replacing the additional computers purchased through the Fund after four years. The Australian Government has provided \$200 million in 2012-13 for this purpose.